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Underground Addict Trade In Stolen Arms Is Claimed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arms and munitions bound for Vietnam are being stolen in California and sold through an underground market in which narcotics sometimes are used for money, an investigator has told a Senate panel.

"An acid head possessing an unstable explosive is enough to make any law enforcement officer lose sleep at night," Charles A. O'Brien, California's deputy attorney general, told the Senate Investigations subcommittee yesterday.

"And that's what we have in California right now," he added.

"There's a market for hand grenades and they're stealing the stuff," O'Brien said, referring to recent munitions thefts from U.S. military shipments going through the Port of Oakland and Port Chicago, Calif.

O'Brien testified that thefts of arms and explosives, one as recently as last weekend, have placed scores of machine guns, hundreds of rifles, carbines and pistols, large quantities of dynamite and plastic explosives and thousands of rounds of ammunition in militant arsenals.

"The general tendency toward blowing things up and burning things down in our society involves an acceptance of violence and destruction which is virtually endemic," O'Brien said, adding all types, colors and classes of poeple of all political persuasions are involved in the escalating wave of terror bombings.

He listed incendiary fires at 37 Los Angeles schools in the first three months of the year and told senators: "I doubt if there were that many fires in schools in Saigon during the Tet offensive." O'Brien said terrorists are responsible for 20 bombings a week in California.